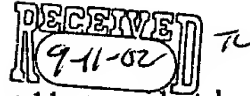




USSN 09/401,730
Group Art Unit: 2878
Docket No.: 161-P-DAL033BUS01



element, said at least one optical fibre connectable to said at least one photo-element, and at least one supporting element provided with at least one guide hole, having an axis, for said at least one optical fibre, wherein said device comprises

a single-piece slide provided with at least one fixed-size slot having a semi-circular portion having an axis, said slide moveable between a first and a second predetermined position, said second position being defined by stops, said axis of said semi-circular portion of said slot, in said first position of said slide, being coaxial with said axis of said hole of said supporting element and freely housing said at least one optical fibre, and said axis of said semi-circular portion of said slot, in said second position of said slide, being out of alignment with said axis of said hole and exerting on said at least one optical fibre a force which keeps the at least one optical fibre secured in said hole.

9. (Thrice Amended) Securing device according to claim 5, wherein said semi-circular portion of said slot has a radius greater than a radius of said at least one optical fibre.

14. (Four Times Amended) A securing device for connecting at least one optical fibre to an optical apparatus, said optical apparatus comprising at least one photo-element, said at least one optical fibre connectable to said at least one photo-element, and at least one supporting element provided with at least one guide hole, having an axis, for said at least one optical fibre, wherein said device comprises

a slide provided with at least one slot having a semi-circular portion having an axis, said slide moveable between a first and a second predetermined position, said second position being defined by stops, said axis of said semi-circular portion of said slot, in said first position of said slide, being coaxial with said axis of said hole of said supporting element and freely housing said at least one optical fibre, and said axis of said semi-circular portion of said slot, in said second position of

USSN 09/401,730
Group Art Unit: 2878
Docket No.: 161-P-DAL035BUS01

E3
D3
said slide, being out of alignment with said axis of said hole and exerting on said at least one optical fibre a force which keeps said at least one optical fibre secured in said hole, wherein said slide is made from transparent material making a region of optical alignment in coupling between said at least one optical fibre and said at least one photo-element externally visible.

Sub E3
D4
22. (Once Amended) Securing device according to claim 5, wherein said at least one photo-element is mounted on said supporting element.

Sub E3
D5
26. (Once Amended) Optical equipment comprising:
at least one optical fibre,
an optical apparatus comprising at least one photo-element, and a supporting element provided with at least one guide hole, having an axis, for a respective one of said at least one optical fibre, and
a device for connecting said at least one optical fibre to a respective one of said at least one photo-element,
wherein said connecting device comprises a single-piece slide provided with at least one fixed-size slot having a semi-circular portion having an axis, said slide being movable between a first and a second predetermined position, said second predetermined position being defined by stops, said axis of said semi-circular portion of said at least one slot, in said first position of said slide, being coaxial with said axis of said at least one hole of said supporting element and freely housing said at least one optical fibre, and said axis of said semi-circular portion of said at least one slot, in said second position of said slide, being out of alignment with said axis of said at least one hole and exerting on said at least one optical fibre a force which keeps said at least one optical fibre secured in said at least one hole, said slide being made from a transparent material making a region of optical alignment in coupling between said at least one optical fibre and said at least one photo-element externally visible.